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281440Z Feb 01

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DINT-00	DODE-00
	DOE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	/009W						

-----CB9626 281443Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8311
INFO NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 HARARE 000871

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER

LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY

PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS

NAIROBI FOR TERRY PFLAUMER

ADDIS ABABA FOR BILL LUKASAVICH
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PASS USAID FOR AFR/SA C. PALMA

PASS USTR FOR ROSA WHITAKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/28/11

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [KDEM](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE RULING PARTY OFFICIALS DIVIDED ON MANY
ISSUES OF THE DAY

REFTEL: HARARE 847 (NOTAL)

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL IRVING FOR REASONS:
1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: RECENT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN CHARGE, POLOFF, AND THREE MID-LEVEL ZANU-PF OFFICIALS REINFORCED THE NOTION THAT ZANU-PF IS NOT THE MONOLITH OF OPINION THAT IS OFTEN CONVEYED IN THE PRESS. CHARGE AND POLOFF SPOKE TO DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE AENEAS CHIGWEDERE, MASVINGO SOUTH MP EDDISON ZVOBGO, AND MASHONALAND EAST PARTY CHAIRMAN PADDY ZHANDA. ALTHOUGH THE THREE OFFICIALS AGREED ON SOME THINGS, SUCH AS THE IMPERATIVE FOR LAND REDISTRIBUTION AND THE WEAKNESS OF THE MDC, THEY DISAGREED SUBSTANTIALLY IN OTHER AREAS LIKE THE DIRECTION OF THE PARTY, ATTACKS ON THE JUDICIARY, AND THE ROLE OF WAR VETERANS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ON FEBRUARY 26, CHARGE AND POLOFF SPOKE TO DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE AENEAS
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CHIGWEDERE (AND MP FOR HWEDZA DISTRICT), AND MASVINGO "SUPREMO" AND MP FOR MASVINGO SOUTH EDDISON ZVOBGO. POLOFF SPOKE TO MASHONALAND EAST PARTY CHAIRMAN PADDY ZHANDA ON FEBRUARY 27. ALTHOUGH A RANKING PARTY OFFICIAL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NOW-PRIVATIZED COTTON COMPANY OF ZIMBABWE, ZHANDA HAS NO POSITION IN GOVERNMENT.

ZANU-PF MORALE

3. (C) RECENTLY REMOVED FROM THE ZANU-PF POLITBURO, EDDISON ZVOBGO WAS LESS THAN SANGUINE ABOUT MORALE IN THE PARTY. WHEN ASKED HOW THE RECENT SACKING OF FIVE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVES HAD AFFECTED MORALE, HE STATED THE EFFECT WAS "VERY SERIOUS." (MASVINGO ALLIES OF PRESIDENT MUGABE ALSO SENT ZVOBGO'S FACTION RIDING OUT OF TOWN ON A RAIL AFTER PARTY PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 24. SEE REFTEL.) ZVOBGO TOLD US THAT THE PARTY LEADERSHIP SEEMED TO BE "INFLECTING DAMAGE ON THE BODY POLITIC" FOR NO APPARENT REASON. "HOW IS MAKING

PEOPLE UNHAPPY THE WAY TO WIN AN ELECTION?" HE ASKED RHETORICALLY. HIS COLLEAGUES IN PARLIAMENT ARE HOPING SOMEONE WILL SET ZANU-PF STRAIGHT, BUT THEY ARE "ABSOLUTELY PETRIFIED" TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE PARTY, ZVOBGO SAID. INFORMATION MINISTER JONATHAN MOYO HAS "STRUCK THUNDER" INTO THE HEARTS OF ZANU-PF MPS. ZVOBGO TOLD US THAT HE REMINDED MOYO WHAT HAPPENED TO JOE MCCARTHY IN THE U.S. DURING THE 1950S--OTHER SENATORS WERE AFRAID TO CHALLENGE HIM UNTIL THEY WOKE UP TO HIS MAD CAMPAIGN AND LEFT HIM A "BROKEN MAN" IN THE END.

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"THE SAME WILL HAPPEN TO YOU," ZVOBGO SUPPOSEDLY WARNED MOYO.

14. (C) PROVINCIAL PARTY CHAIRMAN ZHANDA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE ARE VOICES OF DISSENT IN ZANU-PF. HOWEVER, THE DISSENTERS ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH SURVIVAL RIGHT NOW THAN CHANGING THE DIRECTION OF THE PARTY. ZHANDA LIKENED THE PARTY'S "COMBATIVE" MODE TO A RISING FLOOD. MOST MEMBERS ARE SIMPLY BEING SWEEPED ALONG, FRANTICALLY GRABBING FOR ANY BRANCH THAT COMES ALONG JUST TO STAY AFLOAT.

DIRECTION OF THE PARTY

15. (C) DEPUTY MINISTER CHIGWEDERE WAS MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT THE PARTY'S DIRECTION. HE BELIEVES THAT IF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WERE HELD TOMORROW, ZANU-PF WOULD WIN BACK HALF THE SEATS IT LOST TO THE MDC LAST JUNE. HE THINKS ZANU-PF WOULD WIN BACK ALL THE SEATS IN HARARE'S HIGH-DENSITY SUBURBS, BUT ADMITTED THE LOW-DENSITY SUBURBS, WHERE MOST WHITES LIVE, ARE A LOST CAUSE. CHIGWEDERE CLAIMED THAT THE PEOPLE NOW SEE ZANU-PF AS THE PARTY OF ACTION THAT CAN DELIVER THEM FROM THEIR MISERY, BECAUSE THE MDC HAS DONE LI